

Project Overview

This project develops a Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) for the Butte Creek Watershed. The Butte Creek Watershed Conservancy (Conservancy) was formed to preserve, enhance, and restore the economic and ecological heritage of the Butte Creek Watershed by engaging local landowners to encourage stewardship and community participation. The impetus for this management plan was conceived through the Conservancy's stakeholder-driven process that facilitates coordinated management of resources to maintain a sustainable river ecosystem for the Butte Creek Watershed. Through this process, the Conservancy identified issues and concerns important to the local community. These are the cornerstones of the FMP. They include: education and public outreach, recreation, fisheries, fuel load, timber management, and roads. In addition, the current FMP work concerns groundwater, water supply, water quality, and flood damage control. Education and public outreach are important aspects of FMP development. Educating the public provides opportunities for the Conservancy to advance public awareness of the health of the community's watershed. Ultimately, the FMP will provide guidelines and measures for landowners and federal, state, and local government agencies to protect public health and safety from the impacts of flooding. Measures developed in the Plan will reduce the potential for soil erosion and release of chemicals during flood events; provide resource allocation guidelines for emergency response and preparedness, and present methodologies to potentially lower insurance costs to property owners. The FMP is integrated into, and used to define aspects of, an Integrated Hazard Mitigation Plan for countywide implementation. Through Conservancy partnerships with the Butte County Resource Conservation District, the City of Chico, Big and Little Chico Creek Watersheds, and the Cherokee Watershed, results and methods developed for the FMP will be disseminated across jurisdictional and watershed delineations.



Floodwaters can cause major damage. Floodwater management and damage reduction are key goals of the Butte Creek FMP.

Contact Information

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The east Sutter Bypass with the Sutter Buttes visible in the background.

Award Amount
\$195,200

Watershed
Sacramento River, Butte Creek,
Feather River, Yuba River, and Bear River Watersheds

County
Sutter County

CALFED Region
Sacramento Valley Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 2
State Assembly: 2
State Senate: 4

Purpose

Provide comprehensive coordination with watershed activities in Sutter County as well as those activities that directly affect the County (such as in Yuba, Butte, Colusa, Yolo, and Placer Counties, and along the Sacramento River) that will allow Sutter County to become more active in watershed-wide approaches to planning.

Project Goals

- Coordinate public workshops to provide opportunities for local, State, and Federal representatives to learn about various groups' and agencies' projects.
- Act as a conduit to provide and disseminate information among local stakeholders, watershed groups, and local and state agencies.
- Plan projects to implement the watershed management program.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) has targeted the Sacramento River, the Butte Basin, the Feather River, and the Sutter Bypass as priority watersheds for restoration activities addressing streamflow, coarse sediment supplies, stream meander, floodplain processes, and water temperature. A number of ERP species of concern, including splittail, winter-, fall-, and spring-run Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, giant garter snake, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and greater sandhill crane, inhabit these Sutter County watersheds and stand to benefit from coordinated restoration actions. By establishing a watershed coordinator, Sutter County is ensuring complimentary management of restoration efforts, and facilitates information exchange among citizens, project managers, and local and State agencies.